



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Boris KOLESNIKOV *et al.*  
Title: COMPOSITE MATERIAL HAVING A REINFORCED  
CONNECTING REGION  
Appl. No.: 09/700,735  
Filing Date: 11/20/2000  
Examiner: J. Rhee  
Art Unit: 1772

*MAR 01 2004*

**AMENDMENT AND REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Final Office Action dated October 22, 2003, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Applicants have enclosed with this amendment a Petition for Extension of Time to make this response timely.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this document.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: